

20 Union Street

Number 20 Union Street fronts the east side of that street about 200 feet north of the street's intersection with Main Street in Westminster. The two story three-bay-by-two-bay gable roofed building is one of the least altered structures in the City. A c. 1870 photograph of Union Street shows number 20, the second house to the south of the Union Street M. E. Church, to have been originally nearly the exact form that the building is today. The principal facade, originally was and still is curiously askew and off center. The door the central ground story bay, now is a many paned glass door below a narrow filled-in transom. The other five bays on this facade consist on either side of the door on the ground floor. Windows have black louvered shutters, white wooden sills, are simply enframed, and have 6/6 panes. What is unusual is that the southern two bays on each floor are regularly aligned, but the northern bay is placed a few feet further away in the weatherboard facade. A simple cornice tops the facade, below the rooled black tin roof. The north facade has two small four-light attic windows near the center of the gable, and a single 6/6 window on the ground floor towards Union Street. This window matches in form the windows on the Union Street facade. A flat-capped brick chimney flue rises in the interior of the south facade, at the gable's peak.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

20 Union Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

George Gibson

Telephone #: 848-2327

STREET & NUMBER

66 South Church Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 527

Folio #: 103

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Number 20 Union Street fronts the east side of that street about 200 feet north of the street's intersection with Main Street in Westminster. The two story three-bay-by-two-bay gable roofed building is one of the least altered structures in the City. A c. 1870 photograph of Union Street shows number 20, the second house to the south of the Union Street M.E. Church, to have been originally nearly the exact form that the building is today.

The principal facade, originally was and still is curiously askew and off center. The door the central ground story bay, now is a many paned glass door below a narrow filled-in transom. The other five bays on this facade consist of three double-hung sash windows on the second floor and two on either side of the door on the ground floor. Windows have black louvered shutters, white wooden sills, are simply en-framed, and have 6/6 panes. What is unusual is that the southern two bays on each floor are regularly aligned, but the northern bay is placed a few feet further away in the weatherboard facade. A simple cornice tops the facade, below the rolled black tin roof. The north facade has two small four-light attic windows near the center of the gable, and a single 6/6 window on the ground floor towards Union Street. This window matches in form the windows on the Union Street facade. A flat-capped brick chimney flue rises in the interior of the south facade, at the gable's peak.

The floor plan is irregular, and the placing of two rooms on the Union Street facade could account for the unusual WDW arrangement.

(For PHOTOS, SEE #10 Union Street, CAR 505)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Union Street Westminster is one of the least altered neighborhoods in that City; number 20 Union Street is one of the least altered dwellings in the neighborhood. A c. 1870 photograph shows the house to have originally been much as it is today, its three unevenly-spaced bay width, its two story height, its gable roof, and its well-constructed weatherboarding. Even the 6 over 6 paned windows are unchanged from the way they were when built in the mid 1860's.

Union Street, laid out well before the Civil War, for the City's free black population, displays a greater freedom in building form and the rest of the City seems to have had. While regular bay alignment was, apparently, crucial to the City's white population, the blacks on Union Street who were building houses, or the whites who were building houses for the blacks, felt free to vary the placement of windows and doors on these buildings' principal facades. Nowhere is this more evident than at 20 Union Street, where the door and the southern bay, and the two bays above on the second floor, are several feet off center. (This also seems to be true at number 20's neighbor to the north, 18 Union Street which shifts from three bays on the ground floor to two above.) Thus number 20 Union Street is important as a rare example of a symmetrical facade in an otherwise very symmetrical City, as well as being a well maintained and unaltered residence.

Most of the land on this side of Union Street seems to have been owned by the Roop-Royer family. But sometime in the 1850's Union Street, then called "New Street", was laid out as the City's black neighborhood. Judging from the already-mentioned early photograph of the streets, number 20 was one of the first homes to be built. Its early history is somewhat sketchy, but on May 16, 1867 Louis Schweigart sold the place to George Moore for \$75, in phenomenal price considering that the deed mentions "a house and lot on the southeast edge of Union Street in Westminster adjoining the land of Elizabeth Handin...." (Carroll County Deed Book 34,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being a lot measuring 5250 sq. ft. on the east side
of Union Street in Westminster and number 20 Union Street.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

September, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created
by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the
Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA,
1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information
and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement
of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Page 317). Handin's house, judging from the 1881 City Directory, and from the old photograph, was a 1½ story log dwelling now radically altered into a two-story shed-roofed duplex and numbered 16 Union Street. Number 20, which the directory lists as being lived in by one William Lee in 1881, and as being between Handin's house and the Union Street M.E. Parsonage, in fact, is. (The "parsonage" is numbered 22 Union Street, and is owned by Western Maryland College.) Interestingly, while many of the houses on the northern half of Union Street seemed to have been owner-built, those on the southern side seem to have been built as rental property. In any event, a legal dispute vested title in George W. Albaugh in 1893 (79/463) who sold the place for \$475 on November 17, 1897 to Samuel E. Dorsey (85/456). The house stayed in the Dorsey family until 1921 and was sold to Edward Charms (139/92); it stayed in the Charms family until a Sheriff's Sale vested title in Walter H. Davis on May 20, 1941 (175/417). On November 20, 1972 the present owner bought the house for \$1400.